

**Minutes of the
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY PANEL MEETING
September 22nd, 2004
The Grove Hotel
Boise, Idaho**

Members Present: Louise Krantz, JoAnn Lopez-Miller, Cindy Lijewski, Deborah Lund, Linda Sundstrom, Julie Johnson, Robbie Storla, Greg Bailey, Greg Bailey, Therese Clifford, Robin Greenfield, Dina Flores-Brewer, Hector de Leon, Dennis Toney, Barbara Rand, Jean Coil, Elaine Eberharter-Maki, Ross Edmunds, Glenda Rohrbach, Beth Eloie-Reep, Melinda Lindsey and Regina Hoffman-Flock.

SDE Present: Russ Hammond, Bonnie Steiner-Leavitt, Jean Taylor, and Larry Streeter.

Members Absent: Rick Betzer

Visitors Present: Kris Gullikson, Idaho Falls, substitute for Rick Betzer.

All Panel members introduced themselves and told a little about themselves and where applicable, about their child/children. Russ presented the orientation for new members. Russ finished early and answered questions asked by the Panel Members. The Panel discussed No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Russ called the full panel meeting to order at 9:40 A.M. Russ had all members state what they were doing in 1975, the year of the passage of 95-142, Education of all Handicap Children's Act, and how they became interested in Special Education.

Russ explained why he was leading the meeting. The Special Education Advisory Panel has had some unusual happenings this summer. The Idaho State Department of Education and the Bureau of Special Education have and are undergoing many changes. The Bureau of Special Education hired Beverly Benge, the Panel's Chairperson, as a Regional Consultant. Bev had to resign her position as Panel Chairperson due to the conflict with her new job. According to the Operating Guidelines, "The vice chairperson shall automatically become the Chairperson of the Panel for the following year at the final meeting. If the vice chairperson is unable to assume the role of chairperson, the Panel will elect a vice chairperson by popular vote at the next meeting to serve for the following year." Mary Stewart was Vice Chairperson and she agreed to become Chairperson. This happened the end of July. Then at the September 6th, 2004 Executive Committee Meeting, Mary informed the Committee that she was resigning on September 15th, 2004 as Chairperson and from the Panel due to work reasons. This left the Panel without any leadership except for the Executive Committee that Beverly and Mary had appointed.

Russ explained that the Executive Committee had voted to have him lead the meeting today and lead the elections for a new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. Russ informed the Panel that Dr. Jana Jones has taken a new position as Deputy Superintendent, a position recently vacated by Dr. Mary Ann Rannels. Dr. Jones will be filling the Deputy Superintendent position and the Bureau Chief for Special Education position until another Bureau Chief can be hired.

Russ opened nominations for chairperson. He explained what the chairperson and vice chairperson duties are. JoAnn nominated Julie for Chairperson and Debbie seconded the motion. Julie noted that she would accept the nomination. Julie got the position unanimously.

Russ opened up the nominations for the Vice Chairperson. Julie nominated JoAnn. Therese seconded the motion. Ross declined nomination. Greg moved to close nominations and Hector seconded the motion. JoAnn was voted in as Vice Chairperson unanimously.

Russ went through the agenda items. The Panel did not have any changes.

Russ had the Panel read the April 22nd, 2004 meeting minutes. Ross moved to approve the minutes as written. Greg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Panel broke at 10:30 A.M. for Morning Break. The Panel reconvened at 10:45 A.M.

Bonnie discussed parking, travel and membership sheets.

JoAnn addressed the Panel on the changes to the Operating Guidelines. There was quite a lot of discussion on the changes to a quorum. There was also discussion concerning the addition of members to committees outside of the Panel. The panel discussed the Executive Committee appointments. Ross moved to approve the Operating Guidelines with the suggested changes with the exception of Page 4, B 4. and C 4. Page 4 changes would be deferred to the Executive Committee to formulate changes for presentation tomorrow. Jean seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Russ discussed the SEAP Annual Report for 2003-2004 and the reply from Dr. Howard. Russ went through the Annual Recommendations and the Bureau's response to them. He also discussed the NASDE Grant to support Special Education in addressing the shortage of Special Education Personnel and Related Service Providers. Russ also discussed Recruitment and Retention and Caseloads. Russ took responsibility for Recommendation #12, which reads, "Establish links to training resources on the Training Clearinghouse for all teachers/staff concerning mental health issues, G/T issues, Dual Exceptionalities, and misdiagnosis issues".

The Panel broke for lunch at 12:00 Noon. The Panel reconvened at 1:00 P.M.

Russ introduced Jean Taylor who talked to the Panel about the Annual Performance Report (APR). She also talked about Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

Russ talked about the Reauthorization of IDEA. Russ said there was a flurry of activity in May, but at this point the ball seems to have been dropped. Elaine noted that she had also researched this and found the same things as Russ. She noted that if something is not instituted before the Legislature reconvenes, everything has to start over again.

We broke at 2:15 P.M. for the Afternoon Break. The meeting reconvened at 2:30 P.M.

Larry Streeter gave a presentation on Complaints, Hearings, and Mediations. Larry explained how he is handling all of the complaints that are bombarding his office.

Russ brought up Panel meetings for this year. He informed the Panel that the April 13 and 14, 2005 meetings need to be changed to allow the Panel to give Recommendations to be used in the Annual Performance Report which is due March 31st, 2005. Greg moved to change the April panel meetings to March 2nd and 3rd, 2005. Ross seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Russ talked about focuses discussed by the Executive Committee. These areas are Parent Involvement, Secondary Transition and Recruitment and Retention. They suggested monitoring student outcomes. JoAnn moved that we accept these focuses and Robbie seconded. Greg moved that we add a fourth focus area, No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and Special Education. Robbie seconded the motion. Russ called for a vote on Greg's motion. This passed w/ one person abstaining. Melinda noted that this motion did not coincide with the guidelines voted on earlier.

Forms were given out for members to determine which focus areas they wanted to serve on.

Greg moved and Robbie seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. Russ adjourned the meeting at 3:35 PM.

Respectively submitted by Bonnie Steiner-Leavitt.

Bonnie Steiner-Leavitt